Statement

State-wise Village Electrification Target for 1997-98

S.No.	States	No. of villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	100
3	Assam	230,
4.	Bihar	330
5.	Goa*	0
6.	Gujarat*	0
7.	Haryana*	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh*	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30
10.	Karnataka*	0
11.	Kerala*	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	500
13.	Maharashtra*	0
14.	Manipur	80
15.	Meghalaya	50
16.	Mizoram	15
17.	Nagaland*	0
18.	Orissa	250
19.	Punjab*	0
20.	Rajasthan	480
21.	Sikkim*	0
22.	Tamil Nadu*	0
23.	Tripura	35
24.	Uttar Pradesh	500
25.	West Bangal	400
26.	Delhi*	0
	TOTAL STATES	3000

*States which are reported to have achieved 100% villages electrification level.

Defence Minister's Statement on China

*11. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)whether he made a statement recently that China is a threat to the security of India;

(b)if so, the reasons for such an observation;

(c)the reaction of the Chinese Government thereto; and

(d) the measures contemplated to respond in strategic terms to this new perception?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) China is our biggest neighbour. China is a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS) and continues to maintain the largest standing army in the world. In recent years China has underaken, as a national objective, in tandem with economic growth and development, the modernisation of her armed forces, including her nuclear weapon capability. China has laid stress

on the doctrines of "active defence", "limited war under high technological conditions" and the creation of "rapid reaction combat units" with a focus on her periphery. The redefinition of China's "strategic frontiers", coupled with military modernisation programmes, are rapidly transforming the force projection capabilities of China's armed forces in the sea, air and on land. In recent years, China has also engaged in upgrading logistic and infrastructure facilities in the India-China border areas.

India's defence policy must take into account our complex security environment including this nuclear weapon and missile capability. China is also assisting Pakistan in its nuclear weapons programme and development of missiles. Defence relations between China and Myanmar also have a bearing on India's security.

R.M. in his recent press statements has reiterated our security concerns which have also been expressed by many leaders in the past and in various official documents.

Reacting to the reported statements of the R.M. the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented that China does not pose any threat to any country. They said that the so called argument that China is the biggest threat to India is "absolutely ridiculous and not worthy of refutation".

In recent years there has been steady improvement in India-China relations. India believes that the five principles of peaceful coexistence, jointly enunciated by India and China, are of continuing relevance to the development of inter-State relations. Government of India remains committed to the development of a good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China. It also remains committed to seek resolution of all the issues with China through mutual consultations and dialogues.

All developments having bearing on India's security are constantly monitored and necessary measures are taken as required to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.

Tata Tea Officers' Links with ULFA

*12. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that the Senior Officers of the Tata Tea Company in Assam had links with ULFA terrorists;

(b)whether it is also a fact that the Company used to pay money to the terrorists;

(c)if so, the details of the Officers involved and the amount paid to the terrorists;

(d)whether any enquiry has been instituted by the Union Government or the State Government;

(e)if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(f)the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government against the persons responsible in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Certain links between ULFA and the Tata Tea Company have come to the notice of Government.

(b) to (f) The Company has denied having made any payment to ULFA.

The Assam Police have registered cases against certain Senior Executives of Tata Tea Company. Action will be taken as per the law of the land.

Investment in Power Sector

*13. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a)the total investment, both by private and public sectors, in power sector since 1991 i.e. since liberalisation;

(b)the actual extra power generation capacity added during this period and the capacity that was originally planned;